

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DAVID MAO, DEPUTY LIBRARIAN
OF CONGRESS

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Deputy Librarian of Congress, David Mao, who is leaving the Library of Congress after 11 years of distinguished service to accept a position with the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Mao, who holds a law degree from Georgetown University and a library degree from Catholic University, began his tenure at the Library in 2005, serving for five years in the Congressional Research Service, before working in and later leading the Law Library. In 2015 Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington appointed Mr. Mao to become Deputy Librarian of Congress. Later that year he succeeded Dr. Billington, serving as Acting Librarian of Congress for nearly a year until Dr. Carla Hayden was nominated, confirmed, and sworn-in as the current Librarian of Congress last year. As Deputy Librarian under Dr. Hayden, Mr. Mao oversaw the U.S. Copyright Office, CRS, Library Services, and the Law Library within the Library of Congress.

During Mr. Mao's tenure as acting Librarian of Congress and Deputy Librarian, he has distinguished himself by his steady leadership during a time of transition for the Library of Congress. Among many achievements he led efforts to improve the Library's information technology operations, including hiring a new permanent Chief Information Officer, strengthened the institution's overall operations, and created a new department focusing on national and international outreach.

In my positions as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress in previous terms, I have always been impressed by David's self-effacing and gracious manner, and his exceptional leadership of the world's premier library. He is a wonderful example of a public servant. I thank him for his service to the Library of Congress, to the U.S. Congress, and, more broadly, to the American people. He will be missed on Capitol Hill. I wish him well.

HONORING CHIEF LARRY EUGENE
PRATT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievements of Chief Larry Eugene Pratt. Chief Pratt is one of the most respected fire district chiefs and is retiring from the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District after 53 years of service. I join with the families, fellow

firefighters, and citizens of the Kearney community in congratulating Chief Pratt on his many years of success, contributions to the community and now his retirement.

Chief Pratt began his firefighting career as a junior firefighter in 1963 while he was still in high school. Due to lack of manpower in the mid-1960s, Chief Pratt was one of approximately a half dozen students who were dismissed from Kearney High School to respond to calls during his high school career. While Chief Pratt was still a volunteer firefighter, he began a career working for Hallmark Cards for 34 years. In 1973, Chief Pratt became the Assistant Fire Chief and a year later after completing his EMT certification he was elected Fire Chief serving from 1975 through 1990. When the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District was created in 1990 Chief Pratt was appointed Fire Chief. In March 2001 he was hired as a career Chief.

During Chief Pratt's tenure, the call volume increased from 209 to a projected 1700 and the career positions increased from 3 to 28. With additional personnel and equipment, the ISO classification improved from a Class 8 to a Class 4 for the entire District.

Chief Pratt truly believes in public service and commitment to keeping his community safe. Chief Pratt is a past president of the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs 1976 through 1978, past president of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri 1989 through 1992, and past president of the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts 2011 through 2013. Chief Pratt has been a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Missouri Valley Division of Fire Chiefs since 1978 and received his Chief Fire Officer Designation in August 2002. Chief Pratt is a charter member of St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council and the Kearney Rotary Club, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Kearney Area Development Council and KCB Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and the rest of the Kearney community, family and firefighters in applauding Chief Larry Eugene Pratt's outstanding achievements and contributions to the community, and the State of Missouri. I wish Chief Pratt and his family the very best in years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TEXAS
PRAYER CAUCUS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Texas Prayer Caucus and the first "Call to Prayer Day" that will be held Monday, February 6, 2017 on the steps of the Texas Capitol in Austin.

State Director Debbie Terry, Chairman Scott Sanford and Vice Chairman Matt Krause have organized the event to bring the Texas Legis-

lative Prayer Caucus into a network of 30 other states in an officially registered, members-only, bipartisan, bicameral caucus for lawmakers committed to action in prayer and the protection of religious liberties.

Recognizing the role of our Creator in government and society, the Prayer Caucus "Call to Prayer Day" is an admirable demonstration of the rights outlined by our country's founding fathers in the First Amendment of our Bill of Rights ensuring the "free exercise" of religion and speech as well as "the right of the people to peaceably assemble."

I commend the Texas Prayer Caucus and their commitment to lift up our country, state and government leaders in prayer.

PRESIDENT TRUMP MUST INVESTIGATE VOTER SUPPRESSION INSTEAD OF VOTER FRAUD

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in response to the recent and unfounded claims of voter fraud made by President Trump. Throughout our nation's history, it has been tradition for a newly inaugurated president to try and establish common ground across party lines and heal divisions to ensure that our society transitions between administrations with a positive outlook. However, many of the President's actions have been contrary to this tradition, and his obsession with voter fraud is just a senseless distraction from the real issue of voter suppression in this nation.

The reality is that there is quantifiable evidence that voter fraud is so rare it never influences the outcome of any major U.S. election. Instead of investigating these baseless claims of voter fraud, our taxpayer dollars would be better spent looking into how millions of Americans were denied their constitutionally protected right to vote because of modern-day voter suppression tactics, like voter ID laws, across the country.

In my home state of Alabama, nearly 250,000 Alabamians who don't have a valid voter ID, could not vote in the 2016 election. This is unconscionable and should not be allowed to continue. The solution to the voting issue is a simple one. We can strengthen our democracy by making it easier, not harder, to vote. We should work in a bi-partisan way, as has been our history, to restore the full protections of Voting Rights Act of 1965. The narrative of voter fraud is a myth. However, voter suppression is a real and overly prevalent national issue that must finally be addressed once and for all.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call vote 77, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY."

RECOGNIZING MS. NAOMI
BASHKANSKY FOR HER PER-
FORMANCE AT THE 2016 WORLD
SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Naomi Bashkansky of Bellevue, Washington for her victory at the 2016 World School Chess Championship. Like many other students of Olde Middle School, Naomi works every day to balance extracurricular activities, family commitments, and school life. With the help of coaches, teachers, and family, she strives to mold her own unique identity as a student, a friend, a daughter, and a citizen. Although many aspects of Naomi's life may be familiar to us all, there was nothing ordinary about her performance at the chess championship.

Naomi's accomplishment and strength of character are deserving of the highest level of praise. Naomi not only out-performed 400 young chess players representing 30 different countries, but she graciously represented the people of the 9th Congressional District and the United States of America.

During the competition, Naomi's path to victory was not always clear; she suffered some early losses and could have easily admitted defeat, but she did not do such thing. As she competed in the championship round, she bore not only the weight of her own expectations, but also the burden of representing the nation. At such a young age, Naomi's courage and determination is certainly extraordinary. I know I will continue to hear about her achievements for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Ms. Naomi Bashkansky on a hard-earned victory and wish her the best of luck in the future.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 40th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pio-

neers, heroes, and leaders like the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce; U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford, Jr. and Mae C. Jemison; activists, intellectuals, authors, and artists like Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union.

A few years ago about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed "Triple Nickels" at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether "colored" soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success

based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that "the antidote to racism is excellence in performance," as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston:

1. Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
2. Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
3. Rev. Crawford W. Kimble
4. Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
5. Rev. William A. Lawson
6. Rev. Johnnie Jeffery "J.J." Robeson
7. Mr. John Brand
8. Ms. Ruby Moseley
9. Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
10. Ms. Doris Hubbard
11. Ms. Willie Bell Boone
12. Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
13. Mr. Deloyd Parker
14. Ms. Lenora "Doll" Carter

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.